

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 177897
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, UNSC, NG, NI

SUBJECT:NIGER/NIGERIA COMPETITION FOR SC SEAT

REF: A) NIAMEY 3427; B) STATE 148710

1. THE LONG-STANDING US POLICY WITH RESPECT TO
CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO UN BODIES HAS BEEN NOT TO
TAKE A POSITION IN SUPPORT OF ANY GIVEN CANDIDATE UNTIL
THE REGIONAL GROUP INVOLVED HAS GIVEN ITS ENDORSEMENT.
AT THAT POINT, THE US TYPICALLY AGREES TO SUPPORT
THE CANDIDATE.

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2. THE REASONS FOR THIS POSITION ARE SEVERAL. BY
GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION AND BY LONG-STANDING
PRACTICE, VACANCIES FOR VARIOUS UN BODIES ARE ALLOCATED
TO VARIOUS REGIONAL GROUPS. FOR THE US TO COMMIT ITSELF
TO ANY PARTICULAR CANDIDATE LYIOEATO O'7OENDORSEMONS IN
BY A REGYONAL GROUP WOULD ONLY LEAD TO COMPLICATIONS IN
BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH CONTENDING STATES, REGIONAL

RESENTMENT OF US INTERVENTION AND ULTIMATE FUTILITY
BECAUSE THERE IS LITTLE THE US CAN DO TO INFLUENCE
REGIONAL DECISION MAKING. THE PRESENT RIVALRY BETWEEN

NIGER AND NIGERIA IS A CASE IN POINT.

3. IN THE PRESENT CASE THE REGIONAL GROUP CONCERNED IS,
BY THE TERMS OF THE RELEVANT GA RESOLUTION, THE AFRO-ASIAN
GROUP. THE US THUS FAR HAS WITHHELD SUPPORT FOR NIGER'S
CANDIDACY BECAUSE NIGER DOES NOT HAVE THE FORMAL ENDORSE-
MENT OF THE AFRO-ASIAN GROUP (REF B), EVEN THOUGH THIS
WOULD NORMALLY BE AUTOMATIC ONCE THE OAU HAS DESIGNATED A
CANDIDATE.

4. WITH RESPECT TO NIGER/NIGERIA COMPETITION FOR SC SEAT,
THE US HAS NEITHER ENCOURAGED NOR DISCOURAGED EITHER
CANDIDATE. THE US CONSIDERS MATTER TO BE AN INTERNAL
GROUP DECISION AND WILL SUPPORT THE AFRO-ASIAN GROUP
DESIGNEE WHEN IT HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED.

5. YOU MAY DRAW ON THE FOREGOING IN ANSWERING ANY
QUESTIONS REGARDING THE COMPETITION FOR THIS SEAT.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 29-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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